

REMARKS

By way of the instant amendment, claims 1-18 have been cancelled and new claims 19-36 have been added.

Applicant's new claims have been drafted in light of the objections and rejections set forth in paragraphs 2-4 of the outstanding Office Action. It is submitted that applicant's new claims are free of any objections and fully comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-2, 7-10 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Petler (6,081,519) in view of Shobatake (5,872,786). Further, claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Petler in view of Shobatake and further in view of Tanako (5,339,318). Finally, claim 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Petler and Shobatake and further in view of Easki (5,440,547).

The examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's now amended independent claim 1, for example, recites a network device and a plurality of user devices. The network device receives a first ATM cell which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with an identifier for identifying the user device on an information field from a user device. The network device transmits a second specific ATM cell which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the identifier and a non-allocated VPI value on the information field to the user device. Further, the user device is recited as acquiring the identifier on the first connection with the network device and for transmitting the first specific ATM cell with first connection with said network device and for receiving the second specific ATM cell and for holding the non-allocated VPI value as the specific VCI value when the identifier loaded in the second specific ATM cell is equal to the acquired identifier. No such corresponding teachings are found in the prior art of record. (Moreover applicant's dependent claims further limit and qualify independent claim 19 from which they depend. In particular, claim 11 recites the fifth and sixth transmission steps somewhat analogous to original claim 3 and is thus, deemed allowable in view of the original indication of allowability with respect to

claim 3. Moreover, claim 30 depends from claim 29 and includes a seventh and eighth transmission step.

Independent newly submitted method claim 29 is analogous to system claim 19. And the recitations thereof are not made obvious in view of the applied prior art as is the case with claim 19.

Independent method claim 37 is directed toward an ATM network system which includes a network device and a plurality of user devices and comprises a connection step for connecting the network device and a user device, an acquiring step for acquiring the identifier on first connection from a user device to the network device and a sharing step for holding the VPI value in common by communication between the network device and the user device using a ATM cell which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the identifier for identifying the user device on an information field. The limitations of newly submitted claim 35 are likewise not obvious in view of the combined teachings of the prior art.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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